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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PREL VE

SUBJECT: EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FROM BRV PARLIAMENT FOR FIVE CUBAN SPIES

¶1. (SBU) The Embassy received an official statement of support from the National Assembly (NA) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (BRV) for five Cuban citizens held in the United States on spying charges. The expression of support, passed by the NA on September 23, 2008, condemns the case against the men as political and a violation of their human rights. On September 29, Minister for Work and Social Security Roberto Hernandez reiterated the claim of human rights violations in the case of the five and said the Venezuelan Association of Bolivarian Lawyers would offer "juridical support" to them. Hernandez gave no further detail on what kind of support the Bolivarian lawyers might provide to the men (Gerardo Hernandez Nordelo, Ramon Labanino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodriguez, Fernando Gonzalez Llort, and Rene Gonzalez Sehwerert).

¶2. (SBU) Post will send the original document by diplomatic pouch to the Venezuela Desk. Begin excerpts from text of the NA statement:

Considering:

That since September 12, 1998, the Cuban citizens....find themselves deprived of their liberty by long sentences imposed by judges of the city of Miami;

That sentences of the five Cuban citizens in the United States is a political case disguised under legal pretexts;

That these citizens are subjected to atrocious conditions of reclusion, deprived of visits from their wives and children, that have gone years without information on the cases of the detained, while the Government of the United States loses no opportunity to promote itself in the world as a state that respects human rights;

Declares:

Rejection of the deprival of liberty of the Cuban citizens.

Insistence that the United States...take steps to free these Cuban citizens.

Expression of solidarity of the Venezuelan Parliament with these Cuban citizens.

Condemnation of the violation of these five Cuban citizens and their families by United States authorities.

Manifestation of satisfaction of this deliberative body for the many expressions of solidarity expressed by the international community in relation to the detention and violation of the human rights of those citizens.

End excerpts.
CAULFIELD